

NOTES

MEETING WITH NGOs AND COMMUNITIES – LIMETREE BAY

APRIL 29, 2021

Citizen Concerns:

Personal Privacy (b)(6)

- Finding it hard to get voices heard. Running into roadblocks.
- It has been hard getting people to speak up on record. Somehow, they are hushing up.
- This is the tip of iceberg.

Personal Privacy (b)(6)

Personal Privacy (b)(6)

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- Lives in Fredericksted. ~7 miles from facility.
- Awoken by terrible smell
- Worried about what was happening on St. Croix (accident)
- First time to learn that the refinery had started up.
- Smell continued throughout evening.
- More than smell, headache, swelling, feeling really bad.
- Had to keep on her mask in the house
- Last event of facility was on Earth Day
- Door to door outreach necessary

Personal Privacy (b)(6)

Personal Privacy (b)(6)

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- Impacts to soil, air, water, and people
- Jetty south shore currents, affecting fish, sea turtles and coastline
- BACT should have been installed
- Pour Hydrocarbons to sole aquifer
- Ground flare – up to sky
- Personal Privacy (b)(6); 3 friends died of cancer
- No cancer registry at USVI
- Best available technology,
- Concerns with worker safety
- Monitoring in veins of citizens for air quality
- Monitoring that residents can use would be helpful
- Problems going back to when HOVENSA ran the refinery

Personal Privacy (b)(6)

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- Lives between airport and Personal Privacy (b)(6)
- Waking up with migraines from sulfur “bombs”
- Historically what HOVENSA did
- Father formerly had frequent asthma attacks, father and mother had cancer (kidney and pancreatic)
- Doctors in USVI are concerned with increased health issues
- Same headlines as in 2011

- Investments were not made to technology improvements in facility

Personal Privacy (b)(6)
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- Lives in Clifton Hill
- Checked roof due to recent oil mist emergency
- Family collects water from roof (for filtration for drinking water and sheep).
- Cistern had oil on it. Test confirm this.
- Cleaned cistern. Did not do follow up sampling. They provided bottled water.
- Did the clean-up 2 to 3 weeks after February event.
- Concerns with plants and produce on garden.
- Offered Personal Privacy (b)(6) a check of \$2,000 for release of all liability. Understand that they are trying to cover it up.
- Last Thursday, spoke with head of operations and they informed Limetree of concerns. They said not to worry about it. Then they found out Limetree was evacuating people and selecting who they would offer \$2k to.
- Only alternative is to drive away from home because they are too close to facility.
- Then shutting refinery and as it stopped, they were able to return home.
- Terrified that H2S might be released and have 10 minutes to evacuate
- Originally heard loud noises and bangs when the facility was starting up.

Personal Privacy (b)(6)
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- Accountability, communications in place, presence in the ground, monitoring
- Provide air monitoring devices
- Establish an alert system
- Acute situation
- Requested that **Patrick Foley** visits the site Personal Privacy (b)(6) indicated that Patrick was very engaged)
- Publicly accessible data, ambient air quality information, facility should not be operating
- Are they complying with NESHAP requirements?
- Status of Title V permit of 2015, administratively extended, until
- Large flares
- In ECHO – facility is under SNC, follow up on violations
 - Note: Limetree out of compliance according to ECHO (report here <https://echo.epa.gov/detailed-facility-report?fid=110000307864>) under DMRs with sulfide? I didn't hear the chemical.
- Interested in source of reason for emissions and shutdown

Personal Privacy (b)(6)
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- Community faced new 30 + major discreet major sources
- Without best available technologies
- Change in quality of life
- Should have an NSR permit.
- Hovensa Consent Decree – Will apply upon entry of modification on case on federal court

- Feel misled by EPA indicating that Consent Decree by saying that it applies to Limetree Bay.
- Have not been able to get copy of permit
- Refinery not ready for prime time. Can be worse.
- Need to comply with law
- Community feels misled

Personal Privacy (b)(6)

- Need data. Need monitoring. They are 'sitting ducks' until they get data.
- Air monitoring (UV Hound) and camera system.
 - UVI may be able to handle this monitoring equipment with support
- Researcher for UVI on St. Croix
- Can support in monitoring equipment

Personal Privacy (b)(6)

- Thanking environmental groups and EPA Region 2
- Remember that St. Croix is 2nd home to Pres Biden and First Lady
- Lives on western part of the island. Affected at early morning (3:00 am).
- A lot of individual ordeal for community (picking up children at closed school)
- EPA should follow up on watershed and air quality issues
- See devastation, higher levels of cancer, neighboring communities are on "cancer alley"
- Keep in mind human health issues
- This is a life or death issue for communities

SUGGESTED ACTIONS:

- **Personal Privacy (b)(6)** It has been hard to respond to citizen complaints.
 - **Need emergency response strategy/center** (as if we're following up on a hurricane)
 - **Air Monitoring;**
 - Need sophisticated air monitoring (like UV Hound machine).
 - **Need public affairs staff to understand issues (going door to door) to learn about the community impacts**
 - People are nervous to talk
 - Talk to people and gather info. on what they're experiencing
 - **Need sampling/testing of soil and cisterns (not one time test, but continuous).**
 - **Need 24-hour hotline** to report issues and ask questions and receive a response.
 - Right now, community finds out about releases via press release, after the fact.
 - Note: fires have been seen from/in the facility
 - Need **communications strategy.**

- Personal Privacy (b)(6) :
- **Health Impact Analysis** - Consider bringing in CDC to evaluate health impacts.
 - Gathering health data is important.
- **Communications**
 - Real time reports re. all operations at the facility
 - Provide daily updates via a website and an App to provide real time info./data
 - Coordinate with emergency response agency in USVI
 - Alerts – both online and possible by phone for those without internet access
 - Text alerts should be provided daily/regularly too
 - Need real time data from the facility
- **EPA employee onsite at all times; Lack of local eyes on facility**
 - DPNR is understaffed; VI government didn't know Limetree restarted
 - EPA should be monitoring
- **Cancer Registry**
- **Air Monitoring Equipment**
 - Want monitoring boots on the ground
 - USVI – local university with the capability to help with monitoring
- **Emergency Response Preparedness:** Fire and explosion, non PFAS foam, being prepared
 - Using non-PFAS Foams in case there is a fire is critical – we should be thinking ahead, as PFAS foam will kill the ecosystem
- **EPA to schedule regular forums (virtual or in-person)**
 - Answer questions from community
 - Share information
 - There's been a lot of confusion
- **Town Hall Meeting:** EPA to attend Town Hall at May 13 at 6:00 pm to gain trust in community
 - **Want these questions answered:**
 - Why are chemical releases happening? What are these releases?
 - Why has facility been operating on and off?